

Project Scroll

[The Old...](#)

Sefer Torahs by Silk Screening

[View Photos Of](#)
Rabbi Abadi and
Rabbi Tesler
writing a megila

[The New...](#)

[The Halacha...](#)

[The Highlights...](#)

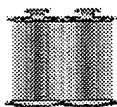
[The Bottom](#)
[Line...](#)

[To Order...](#)

A new process was created to tackle an old problem. The Sofer starts by purchasing some of the highest quality "Klaf" (parchment). The Klaf is checked, tested, and cut to size. The "Sirtut" (engraved lines) is scored to the exact depth, thickness, height, and length. Silk screens are created with the exact lettering. Computers are utilized to achieve a perfectly balanced page using proportionate letters. No need for elongated or squished letters to reach the end of the line. The screens are placed on top of the Klaf in an exact position to meet the Sirtut. The Sofer then puts ink on the screen, and applies the ink by hand passing a squeegee across the Klaf. In a matter of seconds this Klaf has a full page written perfectly. The page is then dried. After the pages are all written, they are sewed properly and the new Torah scroll is ready to use. This is a combination of many patented and patent pending processes.

[View an actual](#)
page of the ktav of
the megila

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**[The
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[The Highlights...](#)

[The Bottom
Line...](#)

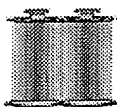
[To Order...](#)

This project is completely under the auspices of Rabbi Yitzchak Abadi, originally of Lakewood, NJ and currently living in Har Nof, Jerusalem, Israel. Rabbi Abadi was the Posek in Lakewood for years and many of his students are Rabbis across the globe. The Rav has thoroughly reviewed every aspect of this process and declared it Kosher for "Mehadrin Min Hamehadrin." The ability to control the perfection of the writing makes it a better choice than conventional Sifrei Torah. Many prominent Rabbis were consulted and were thrilled with the idea. When they were able to view an actual sample they agreed to the high quality and the Kashrut of this type of Sefer Torah. All writing will be done by hand by a prominent Rabbi and Sofer.

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Project Scroll

The Old...

We are preparing for the first group of Sifrei Torah and Mezuzot to be written. A Sefer Torah will cost \$18,000.00.

The New...

An initial deposit of \$10,000.00 will be required, with the remainder upon completion. The expected start date for this is in January 01, 2002. Our estimated completion date for the first 30 Sifrei Torah will be in November 2002. Many orders have been accepted already, and we hope to be sold out shortly. Our goal is to accommodate the demand and to allow anyone who desires a Sefer Torah, to be capable of purchasing one.

The Halacha...

The Highlights...

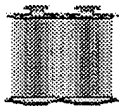
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The Old...

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The New...

Aaron Abadi

or

The Halacha...

Rabbi Yosef Tesler

The Highlights...

Sefer Torah Project
c/o Cong. Ohel Torah

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The Bottom
Line...

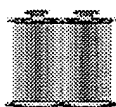
P.O. Box # 385
Cedarhurst, NY 11516

Phone (516) 569-5211 x 123

Fax (516) 908-3817

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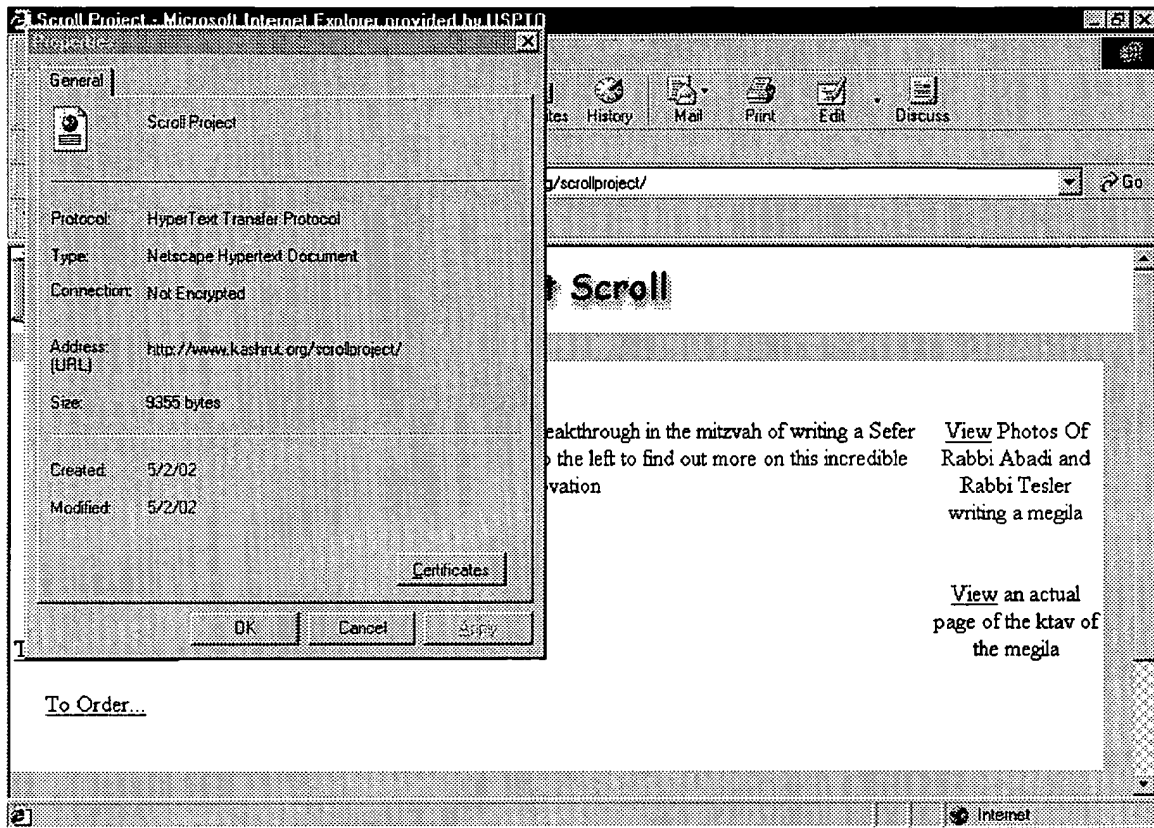
Sefer Torahs of the 20th Century

- Until now, when a person or a Shul would look into buying a Sefer Torah, it was a long arduous journey. First, prominent "Soferim" (scribes) would be interviewed, to find just the right person for the job. Each Sofer has a different handwriting, and the purchaser has his own expectations. The process usually takes at least a year, with many complications along the way.
- The Torahs vary in price from about \$30,000.00 to over \$60,000.00. This is clearly out of the reach of most private people and even many shuls. The one who buys the \$30,000 Sefer must be prepared to live with a much lesser quality Sefer than the \$60,000 one. Additionally, Teffilen & Mezuzot are also priced very high. The average "Baal Teshuva" has a very difficult time accepting these prices, and it certainly will affect their decision to join the faith.
- Unfortunately, many of our aged Sifrei Torah have brown letters and even missing or cracked letters and words from years of use. All too often, we disrupt our Torah reading due to corrections needed. When the prices are so high, we have no choice but to use any and every Sefer Torah available.
- The Halachah states that every man should write his own Sefer Torah. Until now this commandment was almost impossible to achieve...

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Set	Items	Description
S1	1147002	KLAF? OR SCROLL? OR PARCHMENT? OR DOCUMENT? OR SKIN? OR PA- PER? OR SUBSTRATE? OR SHEEPSKIN? OR ANIMAL (2N) SKIN?
S2	6998	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M- EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	572268	JEWISH OR JUDAISM OR JUDAIC OR JUDAISTIC OR KOSHER OR SACR- ED OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S4	824116	WRITE OR HANDWRITT? OR WRITTEN? OR WRITTING? OR SCRIBE? OR INSCRIBE? OR LETTER? OR SCRIPTURAL?
S5	3047	S1 AND S2
S6	186	S5/TI,DE
S7	149	S6 AND S3
S8	80	S7 AND S4
S9	56	RD (unique items)
S10	2050250	MULTIPLE? OR MANY OR TOGETHER OR UNISON OR SIMULTANEOUS
S11	1601461	S4 OR CHARACTER?
S12	40481	S11 (3N) S10
S13	11	S12 AND S8
S14	131486	S1/DE,TI
S15	141	S14 AND S2
S16	58	S15 AND S4
S17	29444	S10(3N) (LETTER? OR CHARACTER?)
S18	2	S16 AND S17
S19	1332026	AUTOMATE? OR COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCAN OR SCANNING OR - SCANNED OR IMAGE? OR IMAGING? OR OCR OR OPTICAL?
S20	0	S 19 AND S16
S21	24	S19 AND S16
S22	17	RD (unique items)
S23	146126	S1 AND S3
S24	18875	S23/DE,TI
S25	406	S24 AND S17
S26	50	S25 AND S2
S27	38	RD (unique items)
S28	215902	S3/DE,TI
S29	1942	S14 AND S28
S30	266	S29 AND S4
S31	0	S20 AND S17
S32	11	S30 AND S17
S33	0	S15 AND STENCIL?
S34	1734	S1 AND STENCIL?
S35	15	S34 AND S2
S36	484	S34 AND S3
S37	351	S36 AND S4
S38	23	S37 AND S17
S39	16	RD (unique items)
S40	959	TORAH/DE,TI
S41	969	TORAH?/DE,TI
S42	0	S41 AND STENCIL?
S43	99	S41 AND S10
S44	68	RD (unique items)
S45	47	S44 AND S4
S46	21	S45 AND S1
S47	279	TORAH? AND (STENCIL? OR STAMP?)
S48	236	S4 AND S47
S49	206	S48 AND S1
S50	1	S49 AND TORAH?/DE,TI
S51	47	TORAH/DE,TI AND S19

S52 34 RD (unique items)
 S53 215902 S3/DE, TI
 S54 16858 S53 AND S1
 S55 553 S54 AND (STAMP? OR STENCIL?)
 S56 419 S55 AND S4
 S57 419 S56 AND S11
 S58 33 S17 AND S57
 S59 24 RD (unique items)
 S60 26 S45 NOT S46
 S61 26 RD (unique items)
 S62 21 S44 NOT S45
 S63 21 RD (unique items)
 S64 21 S63 NOT S61
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S1	1152255	KLAF? OR SCROLL? OR PARCHMENT? OR DOCUMENT? OR SKIN? OR PA- PER? OR SUBSTRATE? OR SHEEPSKIN? OR ANIMAL(2N)SKIN?
S2	7239	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M- EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	548406	JEWISH OR JUDAISM OR JUDAIC OR JUDAISTIC OR KOSHER OR SACR- ED OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S4	799278	WRITE OR HANDWRITT? OR WRITTEN? OR WRITTING? OR SCRIBE? OR INSCRIBE? OR LETTER? OR SCRIPTURAL?
S5	3313	S1 AND S2
S6	232	S5/TI,DE
S7	185	S6 AND S3
S8	99	S7 AND S4
S9	87	RD (unique items)
S10	1734998	MULTIPLE? OR MANY OR TOGETHER OR UNISON OR SIMULTANEOUS
S11	1303159	S4 OR CHARACTER?
S12	39196	S11 (3N) S10
S13	11	S12 AND S8
S14	235587	S1/DE,TI
S15	151	S14 AND S2
S16	60	S15 AND S4
S17	28048	S10(3N) (LETTER? OR CHARACTER?)
S18	2	S16 AND S17
S19	1132294	AUTOMATE? OR COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCAN OR SCANNING OR - SCANNED OR IMAGE? OR IMAGING? OR OCR OR OPTICAL?
S20	0	S 19 AND S16
S21	23	S19 AND S16
S22	20	RD (unique items)
S23	160879	S1 AND S3
S24	19896	S23/DE,TI
S25	471	S24 AND S17
S26	57	S25 AND S2
S27	48	RD (unique items)
S28	187506	S3/DE,TI
S29	2498	S14 AND S28
S30	324	S29 AND S4
S31	0	S20 AND S17
S32	13	S30 AND S17
S33	0	S15 AND STENCIL?
S34	1633	S1 AND STENCIL?
S35	10	S34 AND S2
S36	414	S34 AND S3
S37	299	S36 AND S4
S38	23	S37 AND S17
S39	16	RD (unique items)
S40	1048	TORAH/DE,TI
S41	1057	TORAH?/DE,TI
S42	0	S41 AND STENCIL?
S43	134	S41 AND S10
S44	109	RD (unique items)
S45	71	S44 AND S4
S46	36	S45 AND S1
S47	307	TORAH? AND (STENCIL? OR STAMP?)
S48	261	S4 AND S47
S49	229	S48 AND S1
S50	4	S49 AND TORAH?/DE,TI
S51	61	TORAH/DE,TI AND S19

S52 48 RD (unique items)
 S53 187506 S3/DE, TI
 S54 16767 S53 AND S1
 S55 567 S54 AND (STAMP? OR STENCIL?)
 S56 439 S55 AND S4
 S57 439 S56 AND S11
 S58 34 S17 AND S57
 S59 29 RD (unique items)
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Set	Items	Description
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S2	23	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M- EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	889	JEWISH OR JUDAISM OR JUDAIC OR JUDAISTIC OR KOSHER OR SACR- ED OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S4	3148600	COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCAN OR SCANNING OR SCANNED OR IM- AGE? OR IMAGING OR AUTOMAT? OR OCR OR OPTICAL?
S5	214499	WRITE? OR HANDWRITTEN? OR WRITTING OR SCRIBE? OR INSCRIBE? OR LETTER? OR SCRIPTURAL? OR WRITTEN?
S6	889	S3 (5N)S3
S7	18	S1 (3N)S3
S8	22658	S5 AND S1
S9	947	S8 AND HAND
S10	259	S9 AND S1/DE, TI
S11	7780	(ULTRA())VIOLET OR ULTRAVIOLET OR HEAT) (3N) INK?
S12	2	S11 AND S10
S13	89	S10 AND (SILK())SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN? OR SCREEN(5N)INK? OR PRINT?)
S14	51	S13 AND S4
S15	93	S1 AND S3
S16	0	S15 AND S13
S17	0	S15 AND S11
S18	2	S15 AND INK?

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S3	13857	SIRTUT? OR (ETCH? OR ENGRAV? OR SCORING OR SCORE? OR GRID?) (3N) LINE?
S4	10532297	COMPUTER? OR SCANNED OR SCANNER? OR SCANNING OR SCAN OR OCR OR OPTICAL
S5	2629	S1 AND S2
S6	345	S3 (5N) S4
S7	0	S5 AND S6
S8	402	S5 AND S4
S9	15484	SILK() SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN?
S10	7	S8 AND S9
S11	13	S8 AND S2/TI, DE
S12	8	RD (unique items)
S13	14	S8 AND S1/DE, TI
S14	7	S13 NOT S11
S15	6	RD (unique items)

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S2	448	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR MEZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	6420364	COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCANNED? OR SCANNING? OR SCAN OR - OCR OR OPTICAL?
S4	98832	JEWISH OR JUDAISM? OR JUDAIC? OR JUDAISTIC? OR KOSHER? OR - SACRED? OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S5	61	S1 AND S2
S6	1	S5 AND S3
S7	1117	S4 (5N) S1
S8	99	S7 AND S3
S9	82	RD (unique items)
S10	5	S9 AND HAND
S11	2	S9 AND INK????
S12	3	S9 AND LETTER????
S13	1229	SILK()SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN? OR SCREEN(5N)INK?
S14	0	S5 AND S13
S15	0	S7 AND S13
S16	0	S9 AND S13
S17	0	S13 AND S2
S18	417	S13 AND S1
S19	1	S18 AND S4

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S2	117	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M-EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	4638	SIRTUT? OR (ETCH? OR ENGRAV? OR SCORING OR SCORE? OR GRID?) (3N) LINE?
S4	401660	COMPUTER? OR SCANNED OR SCANNER? OR SCANNING OR SCAN OR OCR OR OPTICAL
S5	5352	SILK()SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN? OR SCREEN?(5N)INK?
S6	989	JEWISH OR JUDAISM? OR JUDAIC? OR JUDAISTIC? OR KOSHER? OR - SACRED OR HOLY
S7	12	S1(5N)S6
S8	0	S2 (5N)S6
S9	56	S1 AND S2
S10	1	S9 AND S3
S11	19	S9 AND S4
S12	2141	S1 AND S4 AND S5
S13	0	S12 AND S6
S14	30362	S1/DE,TI
S15	6849	S14 AND S4
S16	1336	S15 AND INK?
S17	664	S16 AND HAND?
S18	600	S17 AND HAND
S19	43	S18 AND S5

? show files

File 348:EUROPEAN PATENTS 1978-2002/APR W04

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File 349:PCT FULLTEXT 1983-2002/UB=20020425,UT=20020418

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22/9/10 (Item 10 from file: 88)
DIALOG(R)File 88:Gale Group Business A.R.T.S.
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02913153 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 12128631

Scanning the word of the Lord. (using a **computer** to proofread
Torah scrolls) (Column)

Anzovin, Steven

Compute, v14, n4, p82(1)

May, 1992

DOCUMENT TYPE: Column ISSN: 0194-357X LANGUAGE: English

RECORD TYPE: Fulltext; Abstract

WORD COUNT: 569 LINE COUNT: 00056

ABSTRACT: The Hebrew characters used in **Torah** scrolls make it impossible to use a word processor and spelling checker for proofreading. Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak checks for errors by using an **optical** character reader to **scan** photocopies of the scrolls.

TEXT:

Computers are helping to crack the world's longest-running proofreading problem. One of the oldest texts in continuous use is the book Jews call the **Torah** (or Pentateuch), which consists of the first five books of the Bible. The **Torah** is **written** out in Hebrew on a large scroll that's read in the synagogue on every Sabbath. This scroll, which according to traditional Jewish belief contains the word of God as it was given to Moses on Mount Sinai, is the most precious and often the single most expensive possession of a Jewish congregation.

There are exactly 304,805 Hebrew characters in a **Torah** scroll, and ideally, all of them have to be perfect for the scroll to be considered fit for use in worship. To use a defective scroll would be an insult to the Almighty. But making a perfect **Torah** is no trivial task--you can't just type one out on a word processor and use a spelling checker. According to Jewish law, the scroll must be **inscribed** by hand with a quill pen and special vegetable-based ink on parchment made from the skin of a kosher animal, such as a sheep or a goat. Highly trained **Torah scribes** and proofreaders, who take up to a year to complete one scroll, follow strict rules laid down in the twelfth century by the sage Maimonides. Great pains are taken to avoid mistakes and to correct any that are found before the scroll is delivered. Inevitably, however, some errors creep through. In fact, it has been estimated that up to 85 percent of the scrolls **written** since World War II (when thousands of accurate scrolls were destroyed by the Nazis) contain mistakes.

The problem of imperfect **Torah** scrolls is an interesting example of how difficult it is to transmit exact information using analog means--in this case, looking at words and copying them by hand. (The word analog itself comes from the Greek roots ana- and -logos, meaning "according to the word.") Just one repetition is all it takes to corrupt analog information, as anyone who has ever been the victim of gossip can attest. Only with great effort has it been possible to transmit the text of the **Torah** essentially unchanged over the 2 1/2 millennia since its codification. Now a company in Israel is applying digital technology to increase the accuracy of **Torah** scrolls. Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak (offices in Jerusalem, France, and New York, among other places) uses an **optical** character reader (OCR) to **scan** photocopies of **Torah** scrolls for errors. The software to proofread the **Torah** text is lengthy and complex, since it's far more difficult for an OCR program to recognize **handwritten** characters than printed ones, which are much more uniform. Once a particular scroll has been **scanned**,

it's compared with a **computer** copy of the text of the **Torah** which has been checked and rechecked for accuracy. A list of errors is then returned to the scroll's owner, who can arrange for a **scribe** to make repairs to the original. The **computer** doesn't guarantee a perfect **Torah**--the **OCR scanner** may not be able to recognize certain subtle mistakes--but **Torah** scrolls checked by **computer** are so much more accurate overall that most contracts for new scrolls require that they be checked by **optical scanner** before the **scribe** is paid.

A proper **Torah** can never be generated by a PC, but study of the **Torah** and the Bible can certainly be enhanced by **computer**. PC-based Bible-study tools are offered by several different software publishers, each with its own slant on this vast subject. Parsons Technology (One Parsons Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233; 800-223-6925) offers the most comprehensive selection, including Hebrew Tools, which contains a Hebrew lexicon database, a set of flashcards, and a Hebrew word processor for those studying Hebrew scriptures in the original language. There's also Greek-Tools, for those who want to master enough Biblical Greek to check out the New Testament in its original language. Parsons also publishes several on-disk English Bible translations--the King James and the New International, for example--for use with its Quick-Verse 2.0 searching, indexing, and annotation program.

These programs, with their instant access and a wealth of approaches, make Bible study and scholarship easier than ever before.

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DESCRIPTORS: **Torah scrolls**--Editing; **Optical** character
readers--Usage; Proofreading--Automation
FILE SEGMENT: AI File 88

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? t s12/9/1,3,4,5,6

12/9/1 (Item 1 from file: 16)
DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R)
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01602114 Supplier Number: 41972665 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)

COMPUTERS USED TO VERIFY TORAHS:

Technical Computing, v6, n5, pN/A

April, 1991

ISSN: 0891-303X

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Magazine/Journal; Trade

Word Count: 276

TEXT:

A hand written **Torah** (sheepskin and quill pen), the first five books of the bible, is used in every synagogue for reading to the congregation. According to Jewish tradition the **Torah** should be perfect, with 304,805 correctly formed characters, no more and no less. It has about 250 columns, depending on the scribe. The traditional process of writing continues, with a trained scribe taking from 12 to 18 months to complete a **Torah**. According to tradition three proof readers are required to verify the manuscript. After this process it is delivered to the congregation. If an error is discovered later, the **scroll** must be corrected before it can be used.

Rabbi David Greenfeld of Vaad Mishmereth Stam says about 90% of the newly produced **Torahs** still have errors in them. According to the Rabbi, proof readers are now paid by the job and not by the error, leading to an unfortunate lack of attention to the task. For \$750 the Rabbi's company, which has offices in Brooklyn, Jerusalem and Strasbourg, will **scan** the **Torah** electronically, and compare it, page by page with a **scan** of a standard copy stored on disk in a personal **computer**.

The software detects errors and records them. It flags suspicious deviations from its standard copy, which might be errors. In about two hours a Laser Jet begins printing the report. The **scan** is saved, so that traffic in stolen **Torahs** can be suppressed. The **scan** is said to identify the individual **Torah** beyond reasonable doubt. According to Rabbi Greenfield, orthodox rabbis were originally skeptical, but after the system found errors in **scrolls** in use for decades, they became "true believers."

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PUBLISHER NAME: STICS, Inc.

COMPANY NAMES: *Vaad Mishmereth Stam

EVENT NAMES: *360 (Services information)

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES: *1USA (United States)

PRODUCT NAMES: 7374382 (**Scanning** Services)

INDUSTRY NAMES: BUSN (Any type of business); CMPT (**Computers** and Office Automation)

NAICS CODES: 51421 (Data Processing Services)

SPECIAL FEATURES: COMPANY

12/9/3 (Item 2 from file: 47)
DIALOG(R)File 47:Gale Group Magazine DB(TM)
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03956922 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 14400632 (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)

Five scripture titles offer spiritual well-being. (versions of Bible and **Torah** on CD-ROM) (Software Review) (After Hours) (Evaluation)
Olsen, J.W.

PC Magazine, v12, n17, p496(4)

Oct 12, 1993

DOCUMENT TYPE: Evaluation

ISSN: 0888-8507

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT; ABSTRACT

WORD COUNT: 2817

LINE COUNT: 00221

ABSTRACT: Three electronic versions of the bible and two of Judaic classics are examined. Logos Research Systems Inc's Logos Bible Software 1.6 is available in three editions: the \$129 basic package of the King James Version; the \$129 Dual Catholic Version, with New American and New Jerusalem Bibles; and the \$159 Dual Version with the King James version and one of five others. All are for Microsoft Windows. Parsons Technology offers the \$69 QuickVerse 2.0 for DOS. A broad range of add-ins is available for both the Parsons and Logos products. Most comprehensive of the Bible versions is Ellis Enterprises Inc's \$495 New Bible Library, a DOS product which offers 16 Bible versions and one apocrypha on CD-ROM. Davka Corp's \$269 CD ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition requires a good knowledge of Hebrew as even the menus and on-line help are not provided in English. **Torah** Educational Software Inc's \$219 **Torah** Scholar Plus Rashi 1.0n is a more family-oriented product.

TEXT:

Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version, \$159. Requires: 2MB RAM, Windows 3.x, 20MB hard disk space. Logos Research Systems Inc., 2117 200th Ave. West, Oak Harbor, WA 98277; 800-875-6467, 206-679-6575; fax, 206-675-8169.

Circle 446 on reader service card

QuickVerse, Version 2.0, \$69. Requires: 512K RAM, DOS 2.11, 3MB hard disk space per translation. Parsons Technology, One Parsons Dr., Hiawatha, IA 52233-0100; 800-223-6925, 310-395-9626; fax, 319-395-0217.

Circle 447 on reader service card

The New Bible Library, \$495. Requires: 640K RAM, DOS 5.0, 1MB hard disk space, CD-ROM drive. Ellis Enterprises Inc., 4205 McAuley Blvd., #385, Oklahoma City, OK 73120; 800-729-9500, 405-749-0273; fax, 405-751-5168.

Circle 448 on reader service card

The CD-ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition, \$269. Requires: 640K RAM, DOS 3.3 or later, 2MB hard disk space, CD-ROM drive. Davka Corp., 7074 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60645; 800-621-8227, 312-465-4070; fax, 312-262-9298.

Circle 449 on reader service card

Torah Scholar Plus Rashi, Version 1.0n, \$219. Requires: 640K RAM, DOS 3.0 or later, 4MB hard disk space. **Torah** Educational Software Inc., 230 East Rte. 59, Nanuet, NY 10954; 800-925-6853, 914-624-4515; fax, 914-425-1042.

Circle 450 on reader service card

Not long ago, studying Scripture meant possessing a printed copy of the Bible or equivalent writings for your faith. Comparing translations required you to buy multiple versions. Concordances, topical and word studies, commentaries, maps, and other research and historical works meant additional purchases, and scholars of the Christian tradition stocked their bookshelves with original Greek and Hebrew texts, too.

No more! Bible study has been made easier with a variety of easy-to-manage, easy-to-navigate software products--including one to suit almost anyone's needs and resources. In this roundup, we evaluate three titles in the Christian tradition (Protestant and Catholic) and two in the Judaic tradition.

One of the best features of a **computer**-based Bible is the ability to search and make comparative studies. No longer do you need scribble notes in margins or try to coordinate reams of **paper** with corresponding references. The Bibles we review here make these undertakings easier, less space-intensive, and less expensive than ever.

Whether you prefer the DOS or Microsoft Windows environment and whether or not your system includes a CD-ROM drive, a hard disk, or only floppy drives, we offer something for you. Each provides more reference material than you are likely to own now. Even if you own a thorough religious library, you will find a product here to enhance the speed, convenience, and effectiveness of your studies.

Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version

Logos Bible Software is the product against which other Christian software titles have been judged. Because of the exceptional ease with which features can be accessed through Logos's Windows interface, it remains a top contender for the serious student of the Scriptures.

The latest version is available in three basic releases, each of which readily accepts Logos Research Systems' add-in modules. Logos Bible Software 1.6 (\$129) ships with the King James Version of the Bible (minus the Apocrypha), Strong's numbering (a leading referencing system), an enhanced dictionary that expands on those references, and The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, which features more than 500,000 cross-references. Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version, provided for this review, includes all of the above plus the New International Version--or any one of four alternative biblical versions. The third release, Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Catholic Version (\$129), offers the complete New American and New Jerusalem Bibles.

LAYERED COMPLEXITY

The Windows interface encourages effortless, serious exploration of biblical nuances: The printed manual isn't essential to jump into your studies. Logos calls this approach "layered complexity." New users may immediately use the product much as they would a printed book and gradually learn to use its additional features.

From one pull-down menu, for example, experienced users might turn on Strong's numbering system, pop up translator notes and user-created notes for the current passage, and display cross-references or associated references in The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge at the same time.

Searching is quick and thorough, in large part because the index is highly optimized and a hefty 20MB is installed directly on the hard disk. (That requirement may be a serious purchasing consideration.)

Logos Bible Software takes advantage of Windows' Dynamic Data Exchange, allowing you to import a range of verses into a Windows word processor, desktop publishing program, or database.

EASY ADD-INS

This package offers a vast assortment of add-in modules, which integrate easily into the above releases. There are seven alternative English, four Greek, and two Hebrew Bibles. Each features scalable fonts for the respective language.

Other add-ins include the well-known Nave's Topical Bible, historical works and commentaries, and biblical grammar tools. The last module is a noteworthy asset compared with what competitors offer. Spanish, Dutch, and French modules are available, too. Add-ins range from \$15 to \$119 and require one of the three basic releases.

Logos Bible Software 1.6 deserves serious consideration if you can afford to dedicate the necessary hard disk space and want speedy, powerful search capabilities.

QuickVerse

Befitting the customary focus of its product portfolio, Parsons Technology aims QuickVerse at the mass market while maintaining a high

level of value for moderately serious students of Christianity.

QuickVerse comes in both a DOS version (Version 2.0, \$69) and a Windows version (Version 1.0, \$79) and ships with one of six translations of the Protestant Bible. The DOS package sent to us provides more capabilities than the casual user is likely to use, yet demands modest system resources--just 512K RAM and 3MB of hard disk space.

As with most DOS-based products, the initial learning curve is a bit steeper than for Windows alternatives. But getting up to speed isn't all that challenging, especially with a mouse installed.

For instance, to keep the program fairly easy to use, Parsons chose to limit some of the product's search options--but that's typically one of the greatest assets of Scripture software. This simplicity may be a virtue, but serious scholars will find it limiting.

To its credit, the search engine does feature some handy touches; for example, you can **scan** within or across indices. The package also displays up and down icons after an initial search. Clicking on one moves to the preceding or subsequent occurrence of the search term without making you invoke a menu or dialog box.

You may also tag notes to specific words or verses, generate multiple footnote files, cut and paste between them, and automatically display or print them.

Version 2.0 adds user-defined topical indices and lets users view multiple translations and original meanings in Hebrew (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament) simultaneously, if you have purchased those add-ins.

There is one small glitch, however. Several items that require add-ins appear on the menu, and invoke error messages when those modules are not present. While Logos Bible Software graciously grays out such menu items, Parsons' approach leads to frustration until you learn which features you can access.

Like Logos, Parsons offers many related add-in modules. These include Bible Illustrator, PC Bible Atlas, GreekTools, HebrewTools, Nave's Topical Bible, a Hebrew & Greek Transliterated Bible, and six separate versions of the Protestant Bible: King James, New King James, New International, Revised Standard, New Revised Standard, and Living Bible. Each add-in sells for \$39 to \$69.

With its straightforward presentation and choice of options, QuickVerse will be welcome in the home of any Protestant family.

The New Bible Library

If you have a CD-ROM drive and \$495 to spare, The New Bible Library, from Ellis Enterprises, offers more material than any disk-based product, with unique advantages to Protestant and Catholic users.

In a single, well-coordinated and ready-to-go package, you receive a mind-boggling 16 versions of the Bible (one with Apocrypha), seven word studies (including the prominent Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionaries), four commentaries, three sets of cross-references, four reference and historical works, eight topical studies (including Nave's Topical Bible, five sets of sermon outlines containing 500 texts each, and 101 hymn stories), and 12 maps with companion texts. The five sermon outline modules cover almost any audience: Basic Bible Truths, Children's Sermons, On The Christian Life, Evangelistic Sermons, and Gospel Sermons.

Though DOS-based, the front-end system (IBM's Navigator) has a remarkably Windows-like feel, and installation demands less than 1MB of hard disk space.

The CD-ROM format offers advantages and disadvantages. Its strengths are the ease of installation, the amount and diversity of information, and the frugal hard disk requirement. The weakness, at least for those who plan to use this product extensively, is the relative sluggishness with which text is retrieved.

The speed of text retrieval is a complaint that can't be lodged

against the publisher; improvement must await now-emerging advances in CD-ROM technology. Double-speed CD-ROM drives, for instance, offer a notable edge.

Nonetheless, before getting used to the product, I wondered if I had failed to invoke a search properly before an item eventually appeared. The number of matches found in searches--sometimes only one-quarter as many as in Logos or QuickVerse--was disappointing.

MOST REFERENCE MATERIAL

The sheer volume of material in The New Bible Library also presents advantages and disadvantages. The fact that it offers the most reference material is a clear advantage for many users. But wading through this material--even with the commendably inviting and intuitive front-end software--is a challenge the user must learn to address in order to take full advantage of the data.

A more thorough and somewhat easier-to-use search facility would be a welcome enhancement, and would place The New Bible Library far ahead of its competitors.

On balance, The New Bible Library is a wise investment if you demand comprehensive reference material without reserving a large amount of hard disk space, and if you can be patient during searches.

The CD ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition

The content of Davka's CD-ROM Judaic Classics Library is to Judaica what Logos Bible Software is to Christianity. In an informal survey, Davka's product was consistently identified as the title against which its competitors are judged.

Further, it is held in high esteem by the Orthodox Jewish community, and is the product of choice for serious Christian scholars studying original texts. Note, however, that you must be well-versed in Hebrew in order to use this product, as English menus and on-line help are unavailable.

This ambitious CD-ROM provides browsing, searching, and viewing of Tanach, Babylonian Talmud, Aggadic Midrashim, Mishneh **Torah**, Rashi on Chumash and Talmud, Zohar, Talmud Yerushalmi, four **Torah** commentaries, and more--a commendably thorough set of writings. You may save selected material to a file or print it, but this DOS product leaves you to your own resources--including a Hebrew-aware word processor and Hebrew fonts--to work with the character set. (Our informal survey suggested that most potential users of this product already have these capabilities.)

POWERFUL SEARCHING

Searching is fast and powerful. You may turn off suffixes and prefixes, specify up to eight simultaneous search terms, use basic Boolean operators, and set a permissible number of words between multiple search terms.

The extensive source material and substantial search capabilities justify the \$269 cost, but we have some significant objections to some of the program's features: namely, a copy-protection dongle (a hardware device that thankfully went out of vogue years ago) and some important changes made to your hard disk's root directory upon installation that are not mentioned in the manual.

Most notably, the installation program adds a line to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, which in turn loads a 5K TSR into memory, then returns your system to the DOS prompt. The undocumented TSR, which substitutes Hebrew characters for some upper-ASCII codes, does not announce itself when run.

This little change causes problems if your AUTOEXEC.BAT invokes Windows or a shell without returning control to the DOS command line. Under such circumstances the TSR is not loaded, and later attempts to execute Judaic Classics Library result in screens displaying neither English nor

Hebrew but upper ASCII. On the other hand, if the TSR does load, it can conflict with apps that need access to the upper-ASCII characters.

Further, the TSR presumes 25-line video mode--not a safe assumption. In 50-line VGA mode, only half of the lines of DOS displays are visible. The manual is also silent about removing the TSR.

Finally, the user interface is weak by contemporary standards, and no Windows version is available.

Despite some of its annoyances, The CD ROM Judaic Classics Library is worth serious consideration by the scholar who demands maximum access to Judaic **documents** and for whom raw reference material is the overriding factor. For even more text, a third edition recently became available. The \$549 CD-ROM contains all of the text found in the second edition, plus additional codes of Jewish law and more Halachic writings.

TORAH EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE INC.

Torah Scholar Plus Rashi 1.0n

Torah Scholar Plus Rashi targets Jewish families with some knowledge of Hebrew, and is available as a variety of stand-alone products. **Torah Scholar** provides the Chumash (the first five books of the Old Testament) in both English and Hebrew for \$179. **Torah Scholar Plus Rashi** (\$219), sent to us for review, includes the Chumash with hypertext links to the Rashi commentary. Currently, Rashi is in Hebrew, but an upgrade will soon add the English translation.

Additional products include Bible Scholar Hebrew, which adds the rest of the Tanach (the vast body of work related to the Old Testament), and Bible Scholar English, which features an English rather than Hebrew concordance and is intended to reach the Christian market as well. Because all titles in this product line are hard disk-based, they predictably encompass less reference material than Judaic Classics Library. But for many users, this coverage may suffice.

Some time is needed to become comfortable with the DOS-based program's interface, and a Microsoft-compatible mouse is a necessity. The pull-down menus and general methodology in accessing features operate in mildly unexpected ways, but most users will find them adequate if they can live with the black-on-white display.

We found the modest search and display features rather slow for a hard disk-based product. On the positive side, however, it is possible to perform searches in English or Hebrew. To make the Hebrew searches easier, the program pops up a graphical display to remind you which key corresponds to a particular Hebrew character. In addition, this package (like the Judaic Classics Library) comes with stick-on labels for your keyboard. Unlike the more expensive Davka product, **Torah Scholar** prints text and graphics on most popular printers. Devices that emulate Epson dot matrix, LaserJet, DeskJet, and PostScript printers are accommodated.

We were pleased to find that **Torah Scholar** does not require a TSR or other special steps to run. Simply execute the main program for automatic access to all display and printing services. Exit **Torah Scholar** and your system immediately returns to its original state.

Like Judaic Classics Library, **Torah Scholar** employs copy protection: in this instance a software lock, which will prevent most users from running the program on more than one machine at a time. In order to install the program on a second machine (or reinstall it on the first), you must first execute an uninstall program found on the program's installation disk. Failure to do so renders the product useless.

The publisher might build goodwill by abandoning the copy protection. Still, we can recommend **Torah Scholar** to Jewish users who seek to move beyond printed Scriptures to the advantages offered by the products in this roundup.

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COMPANY NAMES: Logos Research Systems Inc.--Products; Parsons Technology Inc.--Products; Ellis Enterprises Inc.--Products; Davka Corp.--Products; **Torah** Educational Software Inc.--Products
DESCRIPTORS: Bible--**Computer** programs; Data bases--Evaluation; Jewish literature--**Computer** programs; **Torah scrolls**--**Computer** programs
SIC CODES: 7372 Prepackaged software; 5734 Computer and software stores
TRADE NAMES: Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version (Electronic book)--evaluation; QuickVerse 2.0 (Electronic book)--evaluation; The New Bible Library (Electronic book)--evaluation; The CD ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition (Electronic book)--evaluation; **Torah** Scholar Plus Rashi 1.0n (Electronic book)--evaluation; Logos Bible Software 1.6 (Electronic book)--evaluation; Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Catholic Version (Electronic book)--evaluation
FILE SEGMENT: CD File 275

12/9/4 (Item 3 from file: 47)
DIALOG(R)File 47:Gale Group Magazine DB(TM)
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03709545 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 12128631 (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)
Scanning the word of the Lord. (using a **computer** to proofread **Torah scrolls**) (Column)
Anzovin, Steven
Compute, v14, n4, p82(1)
May, 1992
DOCUMENT TYPE: Column ISSN: 0194-357X LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT; ABSTRACT
WORD COUNT: 758 LINE COUNT: 00056

ABSTRACT: The Hebrew characters used in **Torah scrolls** make it impossible to use a word processor and spelling checker for proofreading. Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak checks for errors by using an **optical** character reader to **scan** photocopies of the **scrolls**.

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The problem of imperfect **Torah scrolls** is an interesting example of how difficult it is to transmit exact information using analog means--in this case, looking at words and copying them by hand. (The word analog itself comes from the Greek roots ana- and -logos, meaning "according to the word.") Just one repetition is all it takes to corrupt analog information, as anyone who has ever been the victim of gossip can attest. Only with great effort has it been possible to transmit the text of the **Torah** essentially unchanged over the 2 1/2 millennia since its codification. Now a company in Israel is applying digital technology to increase the accuracy of **Torah scrolls**. Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak (offices in Jerusalem, France, and New York, among other places) uses an **optical** character reader (OCR) to **scan** photocopies of **Torah scrolls** for errors. The software to proofread the **Torah** text is lengthy and complex, since it's far more difficult for an OCR program to recognize handwritten characters than printed ones, which are much more uniform. Once a particular **scroll** has been **scanned**, it's compared with a **computer** copy of the text of the **Torah** which has been checked and rechecked for accuracy. A list of errors is then returned to the **scroll's** owner, who can arrange for a scribe to make repairs to the original. The **computer** doesn't guarantee a perfect **Torah**--the OCR scanner may not be able to recognize certain subtle mistakes--but **Torah scrolls** checked by **computer** are so much more accurate overall that most contracts for new **scrolls** require that they be checked by **optical scanner** before the scribe is paid.

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DESCRIPTORS: **Torah scrolls**--Editing; **Optical** character
readers--Usage; Proofreading--Automation
FILE SEGMENT: AI File 88

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DIALOG(R) File 141: Readers Guide
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Scanning the Word of the Lord.
Anzovin, Steven, 1954-
Compute v. 14 (May 1992) p. 82
DOCUMENT TYPE: Feature Article
SPECIAL FEATURES: il ISSN: 0194-357X

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ABSTRACT: Jewish law requires that the **Torah** be inscribed by hand, so the number of errors in a **scroll** can be high, even when checked by human proofreaders. As a result, Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak is using **computer optical** character reading technology to proofread **scrolls** of the **Torah** as they are made. Errors that are discovered are reported to the owner, who can have them corrected properly. PC-based Bible study tools by Parsons Technology are discussed.

DESCRIPTORS:

Torah scrolls
Bible--Software

12/9/6 (Item 1 from file: 148)
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05063209 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 10379010
Ancient **Torah** art gets new look via **computer**. (**computers**
used to supplement Hebrew calligraphy) (includes related article on
miniature **Torah** taken to Persian Gulf)
Mandell, Mel
Computerworld, v25, n8, p41(1)
Feb 25, 1991
ISSN: 0010-4841 LANGUAGE: ENGLISH RECORD TYPE: ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT: Vaad Mishmereth Stam, a service with offices in Jerusalem, Brooklyn and Strasbourg, France, uses **computers** to proofread Hebrew **Torah scrolls** used in Jewish prayer services. Any **scroll** with an incorrect or missing letter, extra letter, missing word or extra word must be set aside, but today's scribes tend to fall short of the performance of ancient calligraphers despite years of training. Vaad Mishmereth photocopies each **Torah** to be checked and scans the copy into **computer** memory page by page. The **computer** checks it against a 'perfect' **Torah** stored in memory. It uses such algorithms as 'stroke analysis' found in pen-based systems; a bell sounds when an error is detected or uncertainties exist that may have been induced by discoloring of the original **parchment**. The complete photocopy and printout indicating errors are returned to the owner. Photocopies also provide positive identification and discourage theft.

INDUSTRY CODES/NAMES: CMPT **Computers** and Office Automation
DESCRIPTORS: Hebrew literature--Publishing; **Computer** graphics--
Religious aspects; Proofreading--Automation; Rabbinical literature--
Publishing; **Torah scrolls**--Publishing
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